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Comments on the Cartoon.



THE ECLIPSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.—The Good Book tells us that God made man upright, but he has sought out many inventions. About the greatest invention that man has ever hit upon—certainly the most harmful to the race—is land monopoly; in other words, the doctrine that this planet was not meant by its Creator for the use of all, but for the special benefit of some, to wit, those who could appropriate it, or acquire it by purchase or otherwise from those who had done so. What is the consequence of this doctrine, practically carried out? Simply that the majority of mankind are robbed of their heritage. If the land and all that it contains was made for the use of humanity—the dead and the unborn certainly having no valid claims—then it is manifest that whatever values attach

to the land is the common property of the existing generation. These values are expressed in ground rent, and this ought to go into the general coffers to defray expenses of government, instead of into private pockets. It is found that the rental values of land, which are created by the accretion of population, correspond exactly in amount to the general expenses of the community—that, in other words, provision is made by a natural law for the comfort and well-being of society if only justice had free course. At present, this natural fund, which comes into existence and keeps pace with population, is grabbed by land “owners,” and the expenses of the community are defrayed by taxes levied on houses, incomes, food, clothing—on everything, in short, which really and truly is private property. These taxes are not only notoriously unjust as between

individuals, but they are in every case a burden upon industry and thrift. We see the natural outcome of this human invention in what we call the Labor Question, which, simply put, is the question, How can we keep the wolf from the door? By way of reply to this we have another precious invention known as the Protective Tariff. This is a scheme by which importation and exchange are prohibited, and each individual is to get rich at the expense of all the others in the “home market.” By some unfortunate defect in the mechanism this remarkable invention doesn’t work. The wealth all goes into the pockets of the monopolists, who, to rectify the inequality, demand more protection and scoop in more wealth. Thus, between the solid wall of land monopoly on the one hand and that of trade monopoly on the other, poor humanity is pinched in poverty. The sweat of man’s brow goes for nothing. Tramps and paupers are the natural progeny of monstrous injustice. May the day soon come when the horrible eclipse of human rights will be over; when man will obey the natural laws of his Maker as the birds of the air do, for amongst these, our fellow-creatures, there is and always has been free access to the sources of subsistence, and no artificial clipping of wings.

THE NEW ORANGE BANNER.—The stalwart Orange Anti-Home Rulers in the north of Ireland and elsewhere must be somewhat puzzled what to think of their *bete noir*, Pope Leo XIII., and his edict against the plan of campaign. That he has got upon their own platform cannot be doubted, and as a colleague he is of course entitled to a certain amount of esteem. It is an awkward predicament, but we hope the Orangemen will not allow their ancient prejudices to sway them to such an extent that they will march in a body to the Gladstone camp just to spite His Holiness. Rather let them frankly and cordially extend to him the right hand of fellowship in the glorious cause of Unionism, and have him pictured upon their silken banners as an emblem of Liberty and Loyalty for the next Twelfth of July parade.

ERASTUS WIMAN is over here again arranging for another campaign. His purpose this time is to discover, if possible, a farmer who isn’t in favor of Unrestricted Reciprocity. We don’t think he’ll find him, unless he counts the able agriculturist who conducts the *Toronto World*.

DOWN with Dalton McCarthy, he’s turned traitor! He says the N.P. is giving too much protection to manufacturers, and that the farmers are suffering in consequence. Away with him! Just as if there could be *too much* of Protection! We repeat, away with him, and away with the farmers if they are not contented with the home market and high prices the N.P. has secured for them. Brother *Empire*, why don’t you join in this cry?

THE local Government’s early closing Bill is being taken advantage of in many of our towns and cities, and ere long the place that keeps its stores open after six o’clock in the evening will be looked upon as a relic of barbarism. The movement is in the right direction. It emphasizes the newly discovered truth that man shall not live by bread alone, and, as far as it goes, it contradicts the assumption of current political economy that work is necessarily a blessing for its own sake.

THIS earth is so well stored with the raw material of the comforts and luxuries of life, that there is really no occasion for people to work in the afternoon at all if they would only put in an honest forenoon’s effort at getting out provisions and doing their necessary chores. The afternoon and evening might very profitably be devoted to physical, mental, and moral training by mankind universally. Isn’t this true? Isn’t there a superabundance of food, fuel and clothing in old mother earth; and haven’t we in the present day inventions and machinery capable of transforming enough of it into wealth in half a day to last until next morning? Yes.